

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /111 W

----- 121717

R 180530Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 7937

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8310

USIAC

FOR IEA/IOP

STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

FOLLOWING SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST EDITORIAL, REACTING TO
REP. WOLFF PRESS CONFERENCE.

QUOTE

CO-OPERATION -- OR COERCION ?

AN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN LAST NIGHT THREATENED THAT THE
U.S. WOULD INVOKE TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST HONGKONG IF THE
COLONY DID NOT CO-OPERATIVE FULLY IN THE FIGHT TO STAMP OUT NARCOTICS.

THIS IS AN ARROGANT, IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNWARRANTED ATTEMPT
TO INTIMIDATE AND DENIGRATE ALL THOSE IN HONGKONG WHO ARE
INVOLVED IN THE DETERMINED FIGHT TO SUPPRESS DRUG TRAFFICKING.

REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF WAS HARDLY OFF THE PLANE AT KAI TAK
BEFORE HE WAS WIELDING HIS BIG STICK AND TELLING HONGKONG HOW TO
RUN ITS ANTI-DRUGS WAR -- A PRESUMPTION THAT IS GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING

TO THE PEOPLE HE CAME HERE TO MEET.

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IF MR WOLFF AND HIS COLLEAGUES GENUINELY SEEK CO-OPERATION,

THEY HAVE CHOSEN A CURIOUSLY ABRASIVE WAY OF GOING ABOUT IT.

NOT THAT THERE IS MUCH TRUTH IN HIS COMPLAINT -- IT IS NOT A NEW ONE, AND IN FACT HONGKONG IS GETTING RATHER TIRED OF THESE SAME ALLEGATIONS BEING REPEATED AS A SMOKESCREEN FOR THE FAILURE OF OTHERS TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

THESE CLAIMS ABOUT NON-CO-OPERATION HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY REFUGED, WITH EVIDENCE THAT IS A GOOD COMMENTS OF TOURING POLITICIANS.

THE HONKONG AUTHORITIES HAVE OPENLY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT AND OFFERED THEIR HELP TO A WIDE RANGE OF AGENCIES, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, IN COMBATING THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

PERHAPS WHAT CONGRESSMAN WOLFF MEANT WHEN HE SAID HONG KONG WAS NOT CO-OPERATING WAS THAT HONGKONG DECLINED TO DO WHAT THE AMERICAN'S THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE DOING.

THIS PRESUPPOSES THAT THE HONGKONG EXPERTS DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT THEIR JOB, AND THAT ONLY THE AMERICANS DO.

A LOOK AT THE RECORD IS NOT REASSURING ON THIS POINT. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLES, THE RAPID GROWTH OF A MASSIVE DRUG TRADE WITHIN THE U.S. WHICH INDICATES A CERTAIN LACK OF SUCCESS IN

SUPPRESSION.

AND THERE IS, TOO, THAT MYSTERY ABOUT THE HUGE HAUL OF HEROIN MADE IN THE "FRENCH CONNECTION" CASE THAT WAS LOCKED UP IN A POLICE STATION BUT WHICH SOMEHOW JUST MANAGED TO DISAPPEAR...

THIS KIND OF ARGUMENT WON'T CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TOWARDS PUTTING THE NARCOTICS MERCHANTS OUT OF BUSINESS, THOUGH, NOR WILL NAKED THREATS BASED ON INACCURATE INFORMATION.

IF MR WOLFF AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE ANYTHING USEFUL TO CONTRIBUTE ON THIS QUESTION THEY WILL FIND THE HONGKONG AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO LISTEN AND LEARN.

THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THEY KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THE DRUGS TRADE, BUT THEY MIGHT BE FORGIVEN IF THEY DO FEEL THAT THEY KNOW THE SITUATION IN HONGKONG BEST.

CO-OPERATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET, AND AN OPEN-MINDED APPROACH TO THE VARYING POINTS OF VIEW COULD RESULT IN A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

AFTER ALL, THERE IS A COMMON ULTIMATE AIM -- STAMPING OUT THE MOST EVIL TRADE KNOWN TO MANKIND -- WHICH TRANSCENDS THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW.

END QUOTE

IZENBERG

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